

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 00592 141212Z

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ACTION AID-31

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4531

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E.O. 11652 N/A

SUBJ: RICE SHIPMENTS TO CAMBODIA VIA SAIGON

REF: (A) STATE 005031 (B) SAIGON 415

1. REFTEL (A) LISTS PRESENT ETA'S KOMPONG SOM AND SAIGON FOR CAMBODIA PL-480 RICE SHIPS BETWEEN JANUARY 10 AND APRIL 6, 1974.
2. REFTEL (B) OUTLINES USAID/SAIGON LATEST PLAN TO EFFECT TRANS-SHIPMENTS OF U.S. RICE FROM SAIGON TO PHNOM PENH IN LIGHT OF PROJECTED ARRIVALS FROM THE U.S. AND CONTINUING BUNKERING PROBLEMS IN SAIGON.

3. PURSUANT TO OUR MEETING IN SAIGON JANUARY 3 WITH ADCCA/LOG STAFF, IT WAS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE MAIN ADVANTAGE IN CHARTERING SAIGON-BASED TUGS AND SELF-PROPELLED BARGES WAS THAT SUCH CRAFTS WOULD HAVE NO DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING BUNKER FROM VIETNAMESE STOCKS BY VIRTUE OF THEIR FLYING THE VIETNAMESE FLAG. WE UNDERSTOOD FURTHER THAT ARRANGEMENTS WERE BEING MADE WITH CALTEX/SAIGON TO BUNKER FOREIGN-FLAG COASTERS FROM TELA KHMER STOCKS HELD BY CALTEX IN VIETNAM. THEREFORE, WE FAIL TO SEE THE RATIONALE AND/OR JUSTIFICATION FOR PROPOSING TO BUNKER VIETNAMESE-FLAG CRAFT IN SAIGON OUT OF CAMBODIA STOCKS PER REFTEL (B). MOREOVER, ON THE BASIS OF PRESENT ETA'S SAIGON AND KOMPONG SOM WE SEE A CONTINUING NEED FOR BOTH VIETNAMESE FLAG TUGS AND FOREIGN-FLAG COASTERS AS EXPLAINED BELOW. FINALLY, ON JANUARY 10 WE

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PAGE 02 PHNOM 00592 141212Z

HAD THE VISIT OF CAPTAIN PATTERSON OF ASIATIC INTERMODAL SHIPPING

CO., HONG KONG, WHO ASSURED US THAT NOT ONLY COULD HE PROVIDE FOREIGN-FLAG COASTER VESSELS BUT ALSO ARRANGE FOR FUEL OUT OF HONG KONG STOCKS TO BE STORDED IN SAIGON FOR BUNKERING HIS VESSELS ON THE SAIGON TO PHNOM PENH RUN. CAPTAIN PATTERSON WAS SCHEDULED TO MEET ALTER IN SAIGON WITH ADCC/LOG ON JANUARY 10 OR 11. IF SUCH A MEETING TOOK PLACE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE USAID/SAIGON INFORMING US OF THE OUTCOME.

4. IN PARA 3 REFTTEL (A), WE NOTE THAT:

A. PRESIDENT

ADAMS IS OMITTED ALTHOUGH SHE ARRIVED SAIGON JANUARY 10 WITH APPROXIMATELY 10,000 MT OF U.S. RICE.

B. CHRISTOPHER LYKES AND LESLIE LYKES ARE LISTED AS ARRIVING SAIGON JANUARY 10 - 12 RESPECTIVELY WHERE IN FACT THEY ACTUALLY ARRIVED JANUARY 4 AND 8. ASSUMING THE OTHER ETA'S ARE AS ACCURATE AS CAN BE AT THIS POINT IN TIME, WE HAVE PLOTTED THE TONNAGE OF RICE TO BE TRANSSHIPPED TO SAIGON AND/OR TO BE DISCHARGED AT KOMPONG SOM OVER THE NEXT 3 MONTHS, E.O. BETW N JANUARY 1 AND APRIL 6.

MONTHLY TONNAGES: IN ROUNDED METRIC TONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

	TRANSSHIPPED SIAGON	DISCHARGED KOMPONG SOM
JANUARY	44,300	9,100
FEBRUARY	29,900	21,600
MARCH	0	0
APRIL	9,500	0

ACTUAL ARRIVALS PHNOM PENH VIA THE MEKONG WILL DIFFER FROM THE ABOVE TABLE BECAUSE TWO VESSELS, THE FREDERICK LYKES AND PRESIDENT ARTHUR, ARE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE SAIGON JANUARY 29 AND 30 RESPECTIVELY, AND THEREFORE TRANSSHIPMENT WILL TAKE PLACE IN FEBRUARY. BY THE SAME TOKEN, THE 6,500 M/T ON THE VESSEL CHEIN PENG DUE SAIGON ON FEBRUARY 26 WILL ARRIVE PHNOM PENH IN MARCH. THUS, PROJECTED ARRIVALS PHNOM PENH VIA THE MEKONG LOOK AT THIS MOMENT AS FOLLOWS; AGAIN IN ROUNDED M/T'S:

JANUARY	27,800
FEBRUARY	39,900
MARCH	6,500
APRIL	9,500

5. THE OUTLOOK FOR KOMPONG SOM IS AS FOLLOWS:

STOCK ON HAND 1/9/74 16,259 M/T
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PAGE 03 PHNOM 00592 141212Z

ARRIVALS: JAN. 10 THRU 31	9,100
FEBRUARY	21,000
MARCH	0
APRIL	0

STOCK ON HAND FEBRUARY 28 26,350

DEDUCTING 3,600 M/T WHICH REPRESENTS TWO MONTHS REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MARITIME PROVINCES, WE OBTAIN A SURPLUS STOCK OF 42,750 M/T DESTINED TO PHNOM PENH. ALTHOUGH ROUTE 4 HAS BEEN RE-OPENED TO

CONVOY TRAFFIC AFTER A TWO-MONTH BREAK, NO RICE SHIPMENT HAS YET REACHED PHNOM PENH AND THE ENEMY RETAINS THE CAPABILITY TO INTERDICT THE ROUTE AGAIN AT ANY TIME. MOREOVER, STORAGE FACILITIES IN KOMPONG SOM CANNOT ACCOMMODATE MORE THAN 30,000 M/T OF RICE. THUS, WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT A PLAN NEEDS TO BE ESTABLISHED NOW TO MOVE BY WATER MOST OF THIS RICE TO PHNOM PENH VIA SAIGON BETWEEN NOW AND FEBRUARY 28.

6. IN CONCLUSION, WE RECOMMEND THAT USAID/SAIGON RE-EXAMINE THE BUNKERING PROBLEM AND THE SELECTION OF SEACRAFTS IN LIGHT OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS MESSAGE.
ENDERS

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